

Minutes of the ECRO General Assembly 2022

(ECRO Congress 2022, Berlin, 2nd September 2022)

Agenda

1. Opening of the General Assembly.
2. Approval of the Minutes of the ECRO General Assembly, 18.09.19, Dresden (online).
3. Financial Report by the Treasurer.
4. Report by the outgoing President.
5. Announcement of upcoming ECRO meetings.
6. Results of the Election of the ECRO Board for the 2020 - 2022 period.
7. Presentation of the new ECRO Board.
8. Address by the incoming President.
9. Miscellaneous.
10. Closure of the General Assembly.

1. Opening of the General Assembly

All ECRO members of the 2021/ 2022 calendar years have been informed about the date, place, and agenda of the ECRO 2020 General Assembly by the General Secretary per email on 26.08.2022. The meeting begins at 12:05.

The ECRO President Thomas Hummel welcomes the participants and reads out the agenda.

→ *The Agenda is approved by the General Assembly without changes.*

2. Approval of the Minutes of the General Assembly, 18.09.20, Dresden (online)

The minutes of the General Assembly that was held during the ECRO 2020 Congress in Dresden, Germany (online) on 18th September 2020 were distributed to all ECRO members of the 2021/ 2022 calendar years by the General Secretary per email on 26.08.2022.

→ *The Minutes of the 2020 General Assembly are unanimously approved by the participants without changes or additions.*

3. Financial Report by the Treasurer

The ECRO Treasurer/ Executive Secretary Matthieu Keller was not able to attend the meeting but prepared an overview of the financial standing of ECRO, which was presented by the ECRO French Representative Pablo Chamero on his behalf.

The 2020 and 2021 financial situation of ECRO has been examined and validated by our auditors Annick Faurion and Krishna Persaud. Both auditors confirmed via e-mail that the ECRO accounts are in order and that the society is in a healthy financial state. It was also decided to make the presentation of the ECRO finances on an annual basis (January to January) rather than from September to September. This allows an easier view of the ECRO finances. Indeed, September is the period of the ECRO meeting where all registrations have been done (incomes) and bills have not yet been paid (outcomes).

ECRO finances are organized under four different accounts, three of which are administered by the finance institution Societe Generale (SG) in addition to a PayPal account for facilitated collection of membership fees and payments of travel awards. A summary of the ECRO accounts from the end of 2019 until 28th September 2022 is presented in the Table below.

Accounts			
Situation at end 2019	+ 147 016,18 €		
2020			
SG Livret A	+ 22 954,93 €		
SG 347 Congress	+ 58 942,35 €		
SG 396 Membership	+ 59 333,78 €		
Paypal	+ 31 075,87 €		
Situation at end 2020	+ 172 306,93 €	Variation 2019-2020	+ 25 200,75 €
2021			
SG Livret A	+ 23 072,08 €		
SG 347 Congress	+ 37 912,49 €		
SG 396 Membership	+ 43 147,56 €		
Paypal	+ 46 240,38 €		
Situation at end 2021	+ 150 372,51 €	Variation 2020-2021	-21 934,43 €
2022			
SG Livret A	+ 23 187,45 €		
SG 347 Congress	+ 88 132,28 €		
SG 396 Membership	+ 28 916,93 €		
Paypal	+ 120 928,63 €		
Situation as of 28-09-2020	+ 261 165,29 €	No bills for the ECRO 2022 meeting paid yet	

It was also flagged that the following reserves are needed for upcoming meetings:

- ECRO 2023 in The Netherlands: 10 000 €.
- ISOT 2024 in Iceland: 20 000 € (+ 6 000 € AChemS and 6 000 € JAST).

• *Membership*

Memberships has been increasing since the sharp drop in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which resulted in the 2020 ECRO meeting being run only on-line (no in-person meeting). The 2021 ECRO meeting was a hybrid including both in-person and on-line options. The 2022 ECRO meeting was an in-person only meeting (no on-line option). A summary of the ECRO members over the past 3 years is summarized below. Actually, the number of ECRO members in 2022 is the highest since records were kept back to 2008, which is good news.

- 2020 = 62 members.
- 2021 = 137 members.
- 2022 = 228 members as of the day of the General Assembly, 2nd September 2022).

• *Travel grants*

The following travel grants were awarded by the Grant Committee, which included Stefan Fuss, Ivan Manzini, and Scott McGrane.

- 2020 = No grants due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Total cost 0 €.
- 2021 = 10 grants for the ECRO meeting and 1 grant for a Summer School in Dresden. Total cost 5 500 €.
- 2022 = 18 grants for the ECRO meeting and 2 grants for the Entomology meeting. Total cost 8 200 €.

• *Thank you!*

The ECRO Board would like to thank the following people:

- Annick Faurion, Krishna Persaud, and Didier Trottier for their help with ECRO finances and processes.
- All the organizers of ECRO meeting for their financial management of the ECRO conferences, especially Thomas Hummel (Dresden, 2020) and Luis Saraiva (Lisbon, 2021).
- The Polak foundation as well as our sponsors, exhibitors, and partners for their generous and faithful support.

4. Report by the outgoing President

• *Obituaries*

The outgoing ECRO president, Thomas Hummel, shared the obituaries of several notable colleagues who had sadly passed away. We thank them for their contributions and honour their memory.

- **Egon Peter (EP) Köster (1931-2022; Univ. of Utrecht).** EP was a Professor of Experimental Psychology at the University of Utrecht between 1976 and 1997 and his primary research focused on perception psychology with a strong emphasis on smell sensation. EP Köster was the founder and long-time Editor in Chief of the Journal Chemical Senses and a co-founding member of ECRO, of which he is an Honorary Member.
- **Gordon M. Shepherd (1933-2022; Yale School of Medicine).** Gordon Shepherd passed away on June 9, 2022. Gordon was a pioneer in neuroscience with a special interest in signal processing by microcircuits in the olfactory bulb and beyond. His seminal work laid the foundation for numerous directions in olfactory research and has significantly shaped our understanding of how odor information is processed in the brain.
- **Donald A. Leopold (1947-2022; Univ. of Vermont).** Donald Leopold passed away on June 11, 2022. Don was born in Cleveland, Ohio, and grew up adjacent to Lake Erie—building his life around family, athletics, and an interest in the sciences. While at the University of Michigan he nurtured a lifelong interest in learning and teaching, studied mechanical engineering, and explored interests in medicine and music. Don believed in the merits of hard work and saw the immense beauty in the art of the possible. Don served as president of the American Rhinologic Society as well as the Chair of Otolaryngology at both Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center and the University of Nebraska. He trained hundreds of students, residents and fellows over his almost 40-year career at SUNY Upstate, Johns Hopkins University, the University of Nebraska, and the University of Vermont.

• *Special Interest Groups*

There are currently two Special Interest Groups formed; Clinical Research in Chemosensation and Computational Chemosensation – see below for more details. If you would like to form a new Special Interest Group, please contact the ECRO Board.

- **Clinical Research in Chemosensation.** The ECRO clinical liaison group consists of ECRO members who are experienced researchers with a strong interest in clinical olfaction. The multidisciplinary group is meant to counsel ECRO in terms of the clinical session that are typically added to the annual ECRO conferences. The group also acts as the corresponding basis for other clinical initiatives that can be made possible through ECRO. For questions and information about this group, please contact Thomas Hummel (TU Dresden) under Thomas.hummel@tu-dresden.de
- **Computational Chemosensation.** Steering team: Michael Schmuker (speaker), Masha Niv, Antonella di Pizio, and Sebastien Fiorucci. We aim to cover all aspects of computational chemosensation, including, but not limited to:
 - Computational chemistry and cheminformatics, e.g., modelling structure-activity relationships, structure-odor relationships, odorant/tastant database mining,

- Data Science & Machine Learning in chemosensation research, e.g., statistical modelling, image analysis
- Bio-inspired and -mimetic designs and algorithms for electronic noses and tongues.

Want to join and get involved?

- Fill out the membership application form and subscribe to our newsletter here: <https://forms.gle/mRYSPjrzZ27L6wnXA>
- Get in touch with your ideas how the Special Interest Group could support the growth of Computational Chemosensation as a research field!

• *Thank you!*

The President thanked the organising committees for the successful ECRO meetings in Dresden 2020 (on-line only) and Lisbon 2021 (on-line and in-person). He also warmly thanked the ECRO Board, especially the Past-President Trese Leinders-Zufall who is leaving the Board and acknowledged her services to ECRO.

5. Announcement of upcoming ECRO meetings

The president announced the current state of planning for upcoming ECRO conferences:

• *ECRO 2023*

The XXXIII ECRO meeting will be held in Nijmegen, The Netherlands on 18th – 21st September 2023. The meeting will be chaired by Sanne Boesveldt (Wageningen University, NL) and supported by Laura Speed (Radboud University, NL), Joost Maier (Wake Forest University, USA), Ilja Croijmans (Radboud University, NL), Jasper de Groot (Radboud University, NL), Marga Veldhuizen (Mersin University, TR), and Jocelijn Meijerink (Wageningen University, NL). The theme of the meeting is “Diverse flavors”. Further details for the meeting are available on the ECRO website, and will be updated periodically: <https://www.ecro.online/meetings/ecro-2023-nijmegen/>

• *ISOT 2024*

International Symposium on Olfaction and Taste (ISOT) meetings are alternatingly organized every four years by JASTS, AChemS, and ECRO. The ISOT 2024 meeting will be organized under the auspices of ECRO. We are pleased to announce that the meeting will be in Reykjavik, Iceland on 22nd – 26th June 2024, and will be chaired by Bill Hansson and Peter Mombaerts. Further details for the meeting are available on the ECRO website, and will be updated periodically: <https://www.ecro.online/meetings/isot-2024/>

6. Results of the Election of the ECRO Board for the 2022 – 2024 period

In line with the ECRO constitution, a call for the nomination of new members for the ECRO Board was sent out to the ECRO community on 03.06.2022 with a deadline as of 28.06.2020 by the General Secretary. The election was open between 01.07.2022 and 30.08.2022 and organized through the *electionrunner* online services. Of the total of 309 eligible members, 63 cast a valid vote. As a result of the election Laura López-Mascaraque was elected incoming President (50 votes), and Matthieu Keller (Treasurer/ Executive Secretary; 52 votes), Stefan H. Fuss (General Secretary; 52 votes) and Ivan Manzini (elected member of the Board; 61 votes) were re-elected in their positions.

7. Presentation of the new ECRO Board

As a result of the election the new ECRO Board for the 2022 – 2024 term is constituted by the members listed below and was presented to the General Assembly according to the Constitution of ECRO:

- Laura López-Mascaraque (President elect, elected in 2022).
- Loic Briand (President, elected in 2020).
- Thomas Hummel (past President, elected in 2018).
- Matthieu Keller (Executive Secretary/ Treasurer).
- Stefan H. Fuss (General Secretary).
- Ivan Manzini (elected Member of the Board).

According to the Constitution, up to two additional Board Members can be co-opted by the Board during the first official meeting, which has not been scheduled yet. Pablo Chamero (French Representative) and Scott McGrane (Advisor) have offered to continue their roles as co-opted members of the Board.

→ *The constitution of the new ECRO Board will be declared at the Prefecture de Police in Paris (France) after the first Board Meeting and a translation of the minutes of this General Assembly into French will be provided for this purpose.*

8. Address by the incoming President

The new President Loic Briand addresses the Assembly. Loic is the Director of the Center for Taste and Feeding Behaviour in Dijon, France. His main research interests are olfactory and taste receptors, sweet-tasting proteins and sweet-taste inhibitors, and vertebrate and drosophila odorant-binding proteins. He thanks the past president for his contribution and service to the ECRO community. Briefly, Loic outlines important tasks for his agenda as ECRO President:

- Increase ECRO memberships.
- Attract young researchers to the field.
- Support small meetings or workshops.
- Increase connection with industry.

- Improve gender balance.

9. Miscellaneous

The ECRO Board thanked the outgoing Past-President Trese Leinders-Zufall for her service and presented her with a book and flowers.

The President asked for more input from ECRO members. ECRO is a platform and can be used for all sorts of activities. It is there to be used!

10. Closure of the General Assembly

The General Assembly closed at 13:00.

UK, 1st November 2022

Scott J. McGrane

Advisor ECRO (Elected Member of the Board)

Stefan H. Fuss

General Secretary