



ESP General Assembly

21st ESP Congress, Bari

August 27, 2025

EC Members:

Massimo Trotta (President), *Amparo Faustino* (Past-President), *Pål Selbo* (President-elect), *Giorgia Miolo* (Treasurer), *Fabienne Dumoulin* (Officer), *Matteo Grattieri* (Officer), *Virginie Lhiaubet* (Officer), *Antonio Monari* (Officer), *Francesca Giuntini* (Secretary).

Chair

Massimo Trotta

Minutes

Francesca Giuntini

Agenda

1. Summary report on the 2023-25 term: Massimo Trotta
2. Preliminary report on the Congress: Massimo Trotta
3. Treasurer's report: Giorgia Miolo
4. Education & Training Committee (ETC) report: Virginie Lhiaubet
5. Photobiology School report: Santi Nonell
6. Junior ESP members events; Carla Arnau del Valle
7. Communication: Matteo Grattieri
8. Photochemical & Photobiological Sciences report: Kristjan Plaetzer
9. ESP Comprehensive Book Series report: Massimo Trotta
10. Membership Committee: Antonio Monari
11. Results of Executive Committee election & presentation of EC 2025-2027: Pål Selbo
12. Poster awards presentation: Pål Selbo
13. AOB

Minutes

Agenda item: Opening **Presenter:** *Massimo Trotta (MT)*

MT welcomes the attendees.

65 attendees in the audience.

Agenda item: President Report **Presenter:** *Massimo Trotta*

Discussion:

The President opens the works of the Assembly. The statement of intents that the Executive Committee (EC) wishes to add on the website is read to the audience. The members are advised that the EC intends to explore the possibility of including this statement in the bylaws of the Society. In this case a ballot will be organised.

MT reminds the audience of the benefits of being an ESP member (including access to PPS, discount on the book series, access to the ESP funds for early career researchers such as travel and Giulio Jori fellowships, eligibility for ESP awards, ESP2hD award, Young Investigator Award, ESP medal). MT notes that the events organised by the junior members are gaining momentum, and that the EC wishes for this to become an established contribution to the Society.

Agenda item: Preliminary report on the 21st congress **Presenter:** Massimo Trotta

Discussion:

MT presents a preliminary report on the concluding congress and thanks the organising secretariat. 341 registered delegates attended (this number is not final, as some registrations still need to be processed). Scientists from 39 Countries participated (the list is not available as the Assembly is taking place). The book of abstract has not been available because of a technical issue but it will be ready shortly. MT extends special thanks to all the staff that assisted in the lecture theatres and in particular to Dr Rossella Labarile for her help. Some photos of the congress are shown to the audience.

Agenda item: Treasurer report **Presenter:** Giorgia Miolo (GM)

Discussion:

Following from comments from members regarding the need for the ESP investments to be ethical and responsible, the Society reviewed the investment portfolio. The ESP changed bank (from Monte dei Paschi to Allianz); some funds are still with the previous bank, but the investments are all with Allianz. The ESP is now registered as a non-profit Society in Austria, and this profile makes lucrative investments ineligible.

MT thanks Giorgia for the efforts during the switch over to Allianz and points out that the registration in Austria and the bank in Italy made the process challenging. The Auditors found no irregularities, and this is shown on the report (shown to the attendees). The report is approved.

Agenda item: ETC **Presenter:** Virginie Lhiaubet (VL)

Discussion:

MT introduces the new composition of the ETC. VL encourages members to consult the page of the ETC and VL extend thanks to the other members of the ETC for supporting the works of the group.

ESP2hD awards are presented: this year four candidates were awarded in different areas. Martina Muskovic, Celina Pihl, Lara Garcia-campa, Charlotte Rouiller.

The Giulio Jori Scholarship was awarded to Claudia Cecilia Vera from Santiago del Estero (Argentina) going to the University of Padova (Italy).

Seven nominations were received for the Young Investigator Award and two were awarded to Nicoletta Liguori and Antonio Frances-Monerris.

The supplement for the PhD was awarded to 5 students.

Agenda item: ESP School **Presenter:** Santi Nonell (SN)

Discussion:

SN: last edition was in 2024, which was attended by 34 students from 13 countries. The school is organised around the 6 areas covered by the programme of the Congress. SN shows the distribution of a discipline background and interests of the students.

Organisation of the next edition (2026) are well under way. As usual there will be some activities alongside to the lectures.

Agenda item: Junior ESP members events **Presenter:** Carla Arnau del Valle

Discussion:

The first edition of the virtual meeting of the Junior ESP members was organised in 2025 and it was a successful, well attended event. Plans are afoot to hold another meeting next year

this congress two breakfasts were organised to discuss research skills and career advice; these were also well attended. CAV expresses satisfaction for the success of the events during the congress.

Agenda item: Social communications

Presenter: Matteo Grattieri (MG)

Discussion:

MG shows the audience the new way to get in touch with the EC, as new workgroup emails were created. MG encourages members to get in touch if they want to advertise something with the rest of the Society. MG presents the Bluesky account and the dedicated hashtag #ESPCongress2025 with the “Bluesky Social Prize” that will be awarded to the most active member on Bluesky during the congress. The intention is to withdraw the account of X, but this needs to be done gradually to ensure all followers are aware. LinkedIn, Facebook and Instagram are channels that can be used to post and advertise the activities of the ESP.

Agenda item: Photochemical and Photobiological Sciences

Presenter: Kristjan Plaetzer (KP)

Discussion:

The switch to Springer as a publisher was complete. A slide is shown with the number of submitted manuscripts (the number of manuscripts submitted is estimated to reach ca. 400 this year).

Slide is shown with journal metrics. The journal is doing well compared to direct competitors. The journal now ranks in three more categories, including Q1 for radiations.

Topical collections are the backbone of our journal, so KP encourages members to suggest ideas for new collections.

KP reminds that Springer has agreements with institutions, so it can be possible to publish open access.

Agenda item: Book series

Presenter: Massimo Trotta

Discussion:

The book series moved as well. We now have the first book about to be published, one being published early next year and few more in the pipeline.

Agenda item: Membership Committee

Presenter: Antonio Monari (AM)

Discussion:

The ESP currently has 232 members. Some Countries have more members than others, which may reflect the extent of activities in the field of photobiology in different Countries. It is highly desirable to increase the members numbers because the Society exists for its members and the members make the society. More members should increase the footprint of the ESP. The Society will keep on supporting the young members.

The society will explore the possibility to draft agreements with national Societies starting from this term.

Agenda item: Results of EC election & presentation of EC **Presenter** Pål Selbo (PS)

Discussion:

PS shows the results of the election, hoping to increase the number of votes.

The composition of the new EC is as follows:

Pal Selbo (NO) - President

Francesca Giuntini (UK) - President elect

Massimo Trotta (IT) - Past President

Matteo Grattieri (IT) - Secretary

Giorgia Miolo (IT) - Treasurer

Virginie Lhiaubet (SP)- Officer

Fabienne Dumoulin (TR) - Officer

Antonio Monari (FR) - Officer

Gareth Jenkins (UK) - Officer

Amparo Faustino (PT) - Auditor

Kristian Berg (NO) – Auditor

PS thanks MT for the presidency and the hard work during the term 2023-2025 and presents 10 points the ESP will focus on in the next term:

- 1) ESP2027Congress in Krakow, Poland: 22-26 August 2027
- 2) Support the ESP Photobiology School, Brixen/Bressanone, Italy 2026
- 3) Start planning the ESP-IUPB Congress in Coimbra, Portugal, 2029
- 4) Strengthen the economy of ESP: Sponsorship & Membership Work Group
- 5) Enhance the visibility of the PPS & Books
- 6) Support young ESP members - Funding and activities
- 7) Seek to help Ukrainian Photobiology labs through a dedicated call – G. Jori fund?
- 8) Strengthen the link to other photobiology societies: ASP, IUPB, and others
- 9) Initiate a program to consolidate and expand the footprint of ESP worldwide
- 10) Strengthen the presence of ESP on the social media platforms

Agenda item: Poster Awards **Presenter:** Pål Selbo

Discussion:

The winners of the poster prizes are presented with the certificate. Awards were made in the areas of photomedicine, environmental and sensors, environmental photobiology, photodynamic therapy and diagnosis, physical and chemical photobiology.

Agenda item: AOB

Discussion:

No further business. PS, MT and the EC thank all attendees.